

(Added Pub. L. 115-390, title II, §202(a), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5188; amended Pub. L. 117-263, div. E, title LIX, §5949(k)(1), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3492.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117-263 substituted “December 31, 2033” for “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act of 2018”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Dec. 21, 2018, and applicable to contracts that are awarded before, on, or after that date, see section 202(c) of Pub. L. 115-390, set out as a note under section 1321 of this title.

Title II of Pub. L. 115-390 effective 90 days after Dec. 21, 2018, see section 205 of Pub. L. 115-390, set out as a note under section 1321 of this title.

CHAPTER 15—COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Sec.	
1501.	Cost Accounting Standards Board.
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§ 1501. Cost Accounting Standards Board

(a) ORGANIZATION.—The Cost Accounting Standards Board is an independent board in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) NUMBER OF MEMBERS, CHAIRMAN, AND APPOINTMENT.—The Board consists of 5 members. One member is the Administrator, who serves as Chairman. The other 4 members, all of whom shall have experience in Federal Government contract cost accounting, are as follows:

(A) 2 representatives of the Federal Government—

(i) one of whom is a representative of the Department of Defense appointed by the Secretary of Defense; and

(ii) one of whom is an officer or employee of the General Services Administration appointed by the Administrator of General Services.

(B) 2 individuals from the private sector, each of whom is appointed by the Administrator, and—

(i) one of whom is a representative of industry; and

(ii) one of whom is particularly knowledgeable about cost accounting problems and systems and, if possible, is a representative of a public accounting firm.

(2) TERM OF OFFICE.—

(A) LENGTH OF TERM.—The term of office of each member, other than the Administrator, is 4 years. The terms are staggered, with the terms of 2 members expiring in the same year, the term of another member expiring the next year, and the term of the last member expiring the year after that.

(B) INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO REMAIN WITH APPOINTING AGENCY.—A member appointed under paragraph (1)(A) may not continue to serve after ceasing to be an officer or employee of the agency from which that member was appointed.

(3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. A member appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the remainder of the term for which that member's predecessor was appointed.

(c) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(1) ensure that the cost accounting standards used by Federal contractors rely, to the maximum extent practicable, on commercial standards and accounting practices and systems;

(2) within one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, review any cost accounting standards established under section 1502 of this title and conform such standards, where practicable, to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; and

(3) annually review disputes involving such standards brought to the boards established in section 7105 of this title or Federal courts, and consider whether greater clarity in such standards could avoid such disputes.

(d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet not less than once each quarter and shall publish in the Federal Register notice of each meeting and its agenda before such meeting is held.

(e) REPORT.—The Board shall annually submit a report to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate describing the actions taken during the prior year—

(1) to conform the cost accounting standards established under section 1502 of this title with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; and

(2) to minimize the burden on contractors while protecting the interests of the Federal Government.

(f) SENIOR STAFF.—The Administrator, after consultation with the Board—

(1) without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service—

(A) shall appoint an executive secretary; and

(B) may appoint, or detail pursuant to section 3341 of title 5, two additional staff members; and

(2) may pay those employees without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5 relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that those employees may not receive pay in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(g) OTHER STAFF.—The Administrator may appoint, fix the compensation of, and remove addi-

tional employees of the Board under the applicable provisions of title 5.

(h) DETAILED AND TEMPORARY PERSONNEL.—For service on advisory committees and task forces to assist the Board in carrying out its functions and responsibilities—

(1) the Board, with the consent of the head of a Federal agency, may use, without reimbursement, personnel of that agency; and

(2) the Administrator, after consultation with the Board, may procure temporary and intermittent services of personnel under section 3109(b) of title 5.

(i) COMPENSATION.—

(1) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Members of the Board who are officers or employees of the Federal Government, and officers and employees of other agencies of the Federal Government who are used under subsection (h)(1), shall not receive additional compensation for services but shall continue to be compensated by the employing department or agency of the officer or employee.

(2) APPOINTEES FROM PRIVATE SECTOR.—Each member of the Board appointed from the private sector shall receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule for each day (including travel time) in which the member is engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Board.

(3) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT PERSONNEL.—An individual hired under subsection (h)(2) may receive compensation at a rate fixed by the Administrator, but not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate for level V of the Executive Schedule for each day (including travel time) in which the individual is properly engaged in the actual performance of duties under this chapter.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While serving away from home or regular place of business, Board members and other individuals serving on an intermittent basis under this chapter shall be allowed travel expenses in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 111–350, § 3, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3695; Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title VIII, § 820(a)(1), (3), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2273, 2274.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1501(a)	41:422(a)(1) (1st sentence).	Pub. L. 93–400, § 26(a)–(e), as added Pub. L. 100–679, § 5(a), Nov. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 4058.
1501(b)	41:422(a)(1) (last sentence), (2).	
1501(c)	41:422(b).	
1501(d)	41:422(c).	
1501(e)	41:422(d).	
1501(f)	41:422(e).	

In subsection (b)(2), the text of 41:422(a)(2)(C) is omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (b)(2)(A), the last sentence is substituted for “of the initial members, two shall be appointed for terms of two years, one shall be appointed for a term of three years, and one shall be appointed for a term of four years” because the initial members have already been appointed.

In subsection (c)(2), the reference to section 5376 of title 5 is substituted for the reference to grade GS–18 of

the General Schedule because of section 529 [title I, § 101(c)(1)] of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101–509, 104 Stat. 1442, 5:5376 note).

In subsection (f)(1), the words “Except as otherwise provided in subsection (a) of this section” are omitted because 41:422(a) does not provide any relevant exception.

In subsection (f)(2), the words “private sector” are substituted for “private life” for consistency with subsection (b)(1)(B) of the revised section.

In subsection (f)(3), the words “Executive Schedule” are substituted for “Federal Executive Salary Schedule under section 5316 of title 5” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

SENATE REVISION AMENDMENT

In subsec. (c)(2), “for level IV of the Executive Schedule” substituted for “under section 5376 of title 5” by S. Amdt. 4726 (111th Cong.). See 156 Cong. Rec. 18682 (2010).

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114–328, which was approved Dec. 23, 2016.

Level IV of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsec. (f)(2), is set out under section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (b)(1)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(1)(A), inserted “and, if possible, is a representative of a public accounting firm” after “systems”.

Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(1)(C), added subsecs. (c) to (e). Former subsecs. (c) to (e) redesignated (f) to (h), respectively.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(1)(B), (D), redesignated subsec. (c) as (f) and amended it generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Administrator, after consultation with the Board, may—

“(1) appoint an executive secretary and 2 additional staff members without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service; and

“(2) pay those employees without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5 relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that those employees may not receive pay in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule.”

Subsecs. (g) to (i). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(1)(B), redesignated subsecs. (d) to (f) as (g) to (i), respectively.

Subsec. (i)(1). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(3)(A), substituted “subsection (h)(1)” for “subsection (e)(1)”.

Subsec. (i)(3). Pub. L. 114–328, § 820(a)(3)(B), substituted “subsection (h)(2)” for “subsection (e)(2)”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Oversight and Reform of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, Jan. 9, 2019. Committee on Oversight and Reform of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Oversight and Accountability of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, Jan. 9, 2023.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title VIII, § 820(d), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2276, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [enacting section 190 of Title 10, Armed Forces, and amending this section and section 1502 of this title] shall take effect on October 1, 2018.”

§ 1502. Cost accounting standards**(a) AUTHORITY.—**

(1) **COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD.**—The Cost Accounting Standards Board has exclusive authority to prescribe, amend, and rescind cost accounting standards, and interpretations of the standards, designed to achieve uniformity and consistency in the cost accounting standards governing measurement, assignment, and allocation of costs to contracts with the Federal Government.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY.**—The Administrator, after consultation with the Board, shall prescribe rules and procedures governing actions of the Board under this chapter. The rules and procedures shall require that any action to prescribe, amend, or rescind a standard or interpretation be approved by majority vote of the Board.

(b) MANDATORY USE OF STANDARDS.—**(1) SUBCONTRACT.—**

(A) **DEFINITION.**—In this paragraph, the term “subcontract” includes a transfer of commercial products or commercial services between divisions, subsidiaries, or affiliates of a contractor or subcontractor.

(B) **WHEN STANDARDS ARE TO BE USED.**—Cost accounting standards prescribed under this chapter are mandatory for use by all executive agencies and by contractors and subcontractors in estimating, accumulating, and reporting costs in connection with the pricing and administration of, and settlement of disputes concerning, all negotiated prime contract and subcontract procurements with the Federal Government in excess of the amount set forth in section 3702(a)(1)(A) of title 10 as the amount is adjusted in accordance with applicable requirements of law.

(C) **NONAPPLICATION OF STANDARDS.**—Subparagraph (B) does not apply to—

(i) a contract or subcontract for the acquisition of a commercial product or commercial service;

(ii) a contract or subcontract where the price negotiated is based on a price set by law or regulation;

(iii) a firm, fixed-price contract or subcontract awarded on the basis of adequate price competition without submission of certified cost or pricing data; or

(iv) a contract or subcontract with a value of less than \$7,500,000 if, when the contract or subcontract is entered into, the segment of the contractor or subcontractor that will perform the work has not been awarded at least one contract or subcontract with a value of more than \$7,500,000 that is covered by the standards.

(2) **EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS BY BOARD.**—The Board may—

(A) exempt classes of contractors and subcontractors from the requirements of this chapter; and

(B) establish procedures for the waiver of the requirements of this chapter for individual contracts and subcontracts.

(3) **WAIVER BY HEAD OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of an executive agency may waive the applicability of the cost accounting standards for a contract or subcontract with a value of less than \$100,000,000 if that official determines in writing that the segment of the contractor or subcontractor that will perform the work—

(i) is primarily engaged in the sale of commercial products or commercial services; and

(ii) would not otherwise be subject to the cost accounting standards under this section.

(B) **IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.**—The head of an executive agency may waive the applicability of the cost accounting standards for a contract or subcontract under exceptional circumstances when necessary to meet the needs of the agency. A determination to waive the applicability of the standards under this subparagraph shall be set forth in writing and shall include a statement of the circumstances justifying the waiver.

(C) **RESTRICTION ON DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The head of an executive agency may not delegate the authority under subparagraph (A) or (B) to an official in the executive agency below the senior policymaking level in the executive agency.

(D) **CONTENTS OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.**—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall include—

(i) criteria for selecting an official to be delegated authority to grant waivers under subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(ii) the specific circumstances under which the waiver may be granted.

(E) **REPORT.**—The head of each executive agency shall report the waivers granted under subparagraphs (A) and (B) for that agency to the Board on an annual basis.

(c) **REQUIRED BOARD ACTION FOR PRESCRIBING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS.**—Before prescribing cost accounting standards and interpretations, the Board shall—

(1) take into account, after consultation and discussions with the Comptroller General, professional accounting organizations, contractors, and other interested parties—

(A) the probable costs of implementation, including any inflationary effects, compared to the probable benefits;

(B) the advantages, disadvantages, and improvements anticipated in the pricing and administration of, and settlement of disputes concerning, contracts; and

(C) the scope of, and alternatives available to, the action proposed to be taken;

(2) prepare and publish a report in the Federal Register on the issues reviewed under paragraph (1);

(3)(A) publish an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register to solicit comments on the report prepared under paragraph (2);

(B) provide all parties affected at least 60 days after publication to submit their views and comments; and